

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:434

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005

DEROGATORY DEPICTION OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is aware that an Indian Fast food franchisee outlet in New South Wales, Australia is using an image of Mahatma Gandhi and his name in their Menu, on their food packs and on the web site to promote sale of their products.

(b) If so, the action taken by the Government in this regard, and

(c) the steps taken /proposed to be taken to stop such derogatory depiction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

a) It has come to the notice of the Government that a company in New South Wales, Australia is using the image of Mahatma Gandhi and his name, with a different spelling, in their commercial establishments.

b) & (c) The matter was taken up by the Indian Consul General directly with the owner of the establishment and also through the concerned Australian agencies. Some non-governmental organizations and individuals have also taken up the matter with the company. As a result of these efforts, the company has changed the image of Mahatma Gandhi on their logo, but the name continues to be used. Efforts to stop them from using the name are still going on.